Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2023: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David

a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." (Lk 2:11)



Cover artwork by Alice S., 5th grader at AACA

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sat	8:30 AM
Wed	6:00 PM
Sunday	9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 (Spanish) and 5 PM

Alphonsus Academy & Center For the Arts

Friday	8:30 AM or as announced

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

Confessions

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM
Saturday	11:00—12:00 PM

**Or call one of the priests for an appointment*

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Tessa Sergent
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Michael and Elizabeth Velten
Fidel Mercado Chavez
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Carol Kania
Leslie Salimi
Jason Jamero







Giving Update

The Christmas bulletin went to press on Friday Dec. 15, before the Dec. 17 collection could be counted. The December 31 bulletin will have the Dec. 17 & 24 offertory totals.

Please remember to help the poor. Donations to the poor box in the narthex go to our St. Vincent DePaul Society.

The left QR code goes to our GiveCentral

The right QR code is for our parish Venmo.

Welcome to the Parish!

Jamie Kenning and Joe Lana
Matthew Lomeo
Kathleen Mezyk
Claire and Eamon O'Connor Josephine
Julianne and Daniel Meierkort
Liliana Allen
Lorraine and Ben Smigielski Helen

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 24— Christmas Eve
9:00 AM James Harrison (Birthday Blessing)
11:00 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
12:30 PM +Delfina y Dolores Gutierrez
+Florentina Ornelas
4:00 PM +Gregory Duda
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
11:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Monday, December 25— Christmas Day
9:00 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
11:00 AM +Thomas Lynch

Tuesday, December 26
8:30 AM +Edward Marsalek

Wednesday, December 27
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, December 28
8:30 AM +Richard Meindl

Friday, December 29
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Saturday, December 30
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Sunday, December 31— New Year's Eve
9:00 AM +James O'Connor
11:00 AM +Jose Espina Jr.
12:30 PM +Manuel and Maria Naula
5:00 PM +Diane Kalejo

Christmas Message From Our Pastor



Many families have lots of wonderful Christmas traditions that often span a few generations. We love these traditions because it helps us feel grounded and connected as an extended family, even if relatives aren't able to see each other at other times of the year. Whether our family's Christmas traditions are sentimental or religious in nature, they bring light into our hearts.

One of my family's German traditions is to hide a small glass pickle ornament somewhere on the Christmas tree. Whoever finds it receives an extra specially-designated gift that's under the tree. Unfortunately because I was color blind, I was never able to be the first one to find it. I didn't mind so much because I was actually more interested in the Pfeffernüsse, German gingerbread cookies that only grow at Christmas. Featuring both a silent letter 'p' and an umlaut, it's a word that is *pfu-pfu-pfün* to say, and a cookie even more fun to eat! Plus, I always knew where to find them!

Such family traditions help us feel loved, a part of something special – tradition is often where we find our identity, and sometimes drawing on nostalgia makes our hearts feel warmth and light. And in a deeper sense, Christmas traditions can make us feel drawn into something deeper, a sublime awareness that we are being drawn into a beautiful mystery that is greater than ourselves. Which is can happen when we sincerely contemplate the manger.

As we come to adore the Christchild sleeping in the hay, as we gaze into the Nativity scene, a profound meditation to ask ourselves is how well do we associate the coming of Jesus into the world with the birth of heavenly peace into our hearts?

Many Catholics enjoy the tradition of erecting a Nativity Scene in their homes, but the invitation is to see it as more than just cute figurines reminding us of a story from long ago. It's meant to be a living light that shines into our homes, our families, and our hearts. But in a frenetic and increasingly secularized culture, we have to be more intentional about looking to find the heavenly peace that is eager to draw us in, this day and every day. And so the image on our Christmas bulletin cover should not be seen as a nice picture drawn by one of our students, but as an invitation to reflect and pray. During the busyness of our lives, do we make the spiritual effort to make our hearts as peaceful, warm, soft and welcoming as the manger?

Because God's grace sometimes comes to us in the guise of a silent love letter, the inherent beauty of a sleeping baby invites us to listen attentively and find the special gift of love. The discovery and embrace of this love is sweet. After we have tasted it, our souls not only desire it, but have the capacity to hold onto it, and always be refreshed by Christ's love whenever we return to Him in the Mass. What begins in the manger is fulfilled at the Altar. And renewed. The Prince of Peace becomes the Bread of Life. Mysteries that move us into silent contemplation when we approach them, not merely as symbols or images, but as living encounters with the Author of Life, the Artist of Love, and the Architect of Beauty.

It is the hope and prayer of myself and all the staff and faculty of our parish and school that your celebration of Christmas be a joyful time of spiritual renewal, peace and love.

God bless you all, and Merry Christmas!

Rev. Steven Bauer
Pastor

Support St. Alphonsus This Christmas!

This Christmas season, we express our gratitude for the generous gifts received this time of year. We are continuously overjoyed at how our parish and school families come together to help each other. While you are planning your seasonal giving, show your gratitude for God's blessings in your life by making a special donation to our annual Christmas Collection. Your spirit of giving demonstrates a deep understanding of our mission, as we witness together, the miracle of incarnation.

A huge thank you to those that are already giving online. Please consider making St. Alphonsus an extension of your home and family when contributing.

www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/526
You can also text Joyful to (773) 570-7600

Christmas 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the birth of our hope. When he came among us as one like us in all things but sin, he lifted us up to new and transformed life. In fact, he opened for us the way to share in the very life of God. One of the prayers of the Mass gives us these words: "…may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

The struggles that we face in our personal lives and in our wounded world do not have the last word. We are meant for more. We are meant for full and eternal life. I pray that our celebration of the Lord's birth will remind us of the glory that will carry us beyond the challenges, sometimes truly significant challenges that mark our lives and our world.

We must also remember that the Lord did not just come among us once and long ago. He continues to walk with us as we walk with each other. Our celebrations of the Eucharist remind of that. And he will never abandon his people. He is now and always Emmanuel, our God with us. Our journey is his journey. And this year, having celebrated the first of two synods of the Church, we are especially aware that he accompanies us as we accompany one another.

In this holy season, I invite you to pray. Take time, create a quiet space, look on the creche, read the gospels, and allow yourself to know that he is near and that he walks with you. If you do so, I can assure you that you will know his peace. Then, take what you learn from him to your family, to your workplace, to your community, and to entire world. The gift of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, is not something we can hold for ourselves. We are called and destined to share it with others.

As I celebrate the Eucharist, I will remember you and pray that you will have a living sense of the Lord among us, the one who walks with us and draws us forward into the fullness of his life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Blase Card. Cupich

Archbishop of Chicago



Celebrate Christmas With FORMED!

St. Alphonsus Parish has purchased a subscription to FORMED so that you, yes YOU! can receive FREE access to Bible Studies, Family Programming, Classic Spiritual Books, and more! Consider this our Christmas gift to you! Deepen your relationship with God as you grow in knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

Programs include: Studies on the Eucharist and the Gospels; Sacred Art; Catholic Commentary on the popular series, The Chosen; Lives of the Saints; Children's Shows and Films; Books written by Pope Benedict XVI, Fulton Sheen, and Peter Kreft; and Audio Talks by Bishop Robert Barron, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Scott Hahn, Dr. Brant Pitre, Trent Horn, and more! **¡Hay programas en español también!**

TO SIGN UP FREE:
1) Go to formed.org/signup
2) Type in Zip Code 60657
3) Choose St. Alphonsus
4) Fill out your Name and Email
5) YOU'RE IN!

PARA REGISTRARSE GRATIS:
1) Vaya a formed.org/signup
2) Escriba el código postal 60657
3) Elige a St. Alphonsus
4) Escriba su nombre y correo electrónico
5) ¡DISFRUTA!

Did you know that FORMED is also an App? Stream your favorite content directly to your devices! Perfect for Family Movie Nights and when you're On-the-Go. Download FORMED today!



Religious Education

NET Missionary Housing and Food Donations Needed!



Looking for a way to give back to your community and invest in the faith of the next generation? Provide housing or lunch for the 10 NET Missionaries who are coming to St. Alphonsus to host Confirmation Retreats for our AACA and RE students!

We are hoping to find 4-6 families to provide:

- **A Space for at least 2 Missionaries to Sleep Jan 30th-Feb 1st** (*they have their own sleeping bags so floorspace, couches, or air mattresses are fine*)
- **Shower Access**
- **Continental Breakfast** (*like cereal, yogurt, or fruit*)

We are also looking for families to provide lunches for the 10 missionaries (food donations, bagged lunches, gift cards like Chipotle, etc.).

By supporting the missionaries, you are helping to spread the faith and inspire the hearts of our youth! Please pray about this and see what is feasible for you and your family.

If you can help in any way, please contact Emily Ember at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church for more information.



The AMEN App

The FREE Catholic Prayer, Meditation, and Scripture App. Listen to Daily Gospel Reflections, Pray the Rosary, and Enjoy Guided Examinations of Conscience, Bedtime Stories, and more!

¡Hay oraciones en español también! Descárgalo ahora y comienza a rezar el Rosario, la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia y otras oraciones favoritas como el Ave María y el Padre Nuestro.









experience the

ALPHONSUS DIFFERENCE

WE OFFER A SMALL SCHOOL FEEL WITH BIG CITY RESOURCES.
OUR COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND A STRONG CATHOLIC FOUNDATION IS ENRICHED THROUGH AN ARTS-INTEGRATED CURRICULUM AND SUPPORTED BY A COMPASSIONATE, CREATIVE FACULTY.

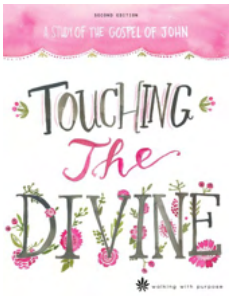
- Founded in 1906, Alphonsus Academy is steeped in the Catholic tradition and a community landmark in Lakeview
- National Blue Ribbon School, awarded in 2019 for academic and instructional excellence
- Enrollment of approximately 500 students between our Tots Program (2 year olds) and Preschool to 8th Grade
- Active, welcoming environment for families eager to educate their children and engage in community
- Spirit of continuous improvement, collaboration, and inclusivity throughout the faculty--over half of whom hold Master's degrees and have worked at AACA 5+ years
- Very low student to teacher ratio with team of 3 full time learning specialist and guidance counselors dedicated to student success
- Arts-integrated curriculum fosters creativity and a lifelong love of learning with ample experience and opportunities to explore
- Dynamic specials program including Spanish, visual/performing arts, physical education, and extracurricular enrichment opportunities

Join us for a tour!

AACA
ALPHONSUS ACADEMY
& Center for the Arts



Faith Formation



Walking with Purpose Women's Group— Tuesday mornings and evenings 9:30-11 AM or 6:30-8 PM

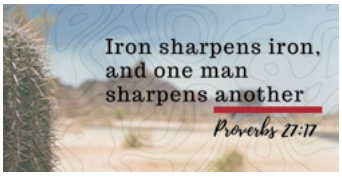
Come as you are. You are welcome here. Make authentic connections with other women! Refuel and Refresh! Learn more about God!

The **Touching the Divine** Bible study focuses on qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper loving relationship with Jesus as we reflect on His life and personality.

Saint John referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," and as we study, John will teach is how much Jesus loves us and how His love is the true satisfaction of our souls. Questions? Contact Susan Combes at smbcombes51@gmail.com

Our group is on a short one month break and will meet again in 2024!

St. Alphonsus Men's Group



St. Alphonsus Men's Group meets Thursday nights to pray the liturgy of the hours, have fellowship, and to propose challenging topics to discuss.

When great conversations happen, synergy that creates connections and helps values be shared develops. *Proverbs 27:17* describes this as two iron tools being sharpened and made more effective. The same applies with friends coming into contact, sharpening and encouraging each other to greater service.

We meet every Thursday night at 7 PM in the rectory. Food and drinks provided. All men are welcome, with most men being in their 20s and 30s. Access can be gained at the west facing rectory door in the parking lot.

For questions or more information, contact Men's Group at our email, divineofficers@gmail.com

"Come to me all you are labored and burdened and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28

Why Register at a Parish?

- It is a **sign of commitment and support to the life of a parish community** and indicates willingness to **belong to our parish family**.
- Our Parish Staff will have the basic information needed to **communicate with individual families, especially in times of emergency.**
- Every Catholic needs to have their **sacramental information documented**. Copies of one's Baptismal, First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage records are required at various times in our life.
- Families that enroll their children in **our Parish School or Religious Education Program** should be registered and active in the parish, especially if they intend to have their children receive the Sacraments.
- Families are able to receive **important information about the parish** that often comes through direct mailing.
- For **Godparents**, it is required to provide information stating active parish registration, practice of faith and ongoing support to the overall life of the parish.

Parish Mailing list is **only used for church purposes and never shared with businesses or other organizations.

Eucharistic Adoration: A Source for Peace:
Sometimes our weeks can be quite hectic, making it hard to find quiet time to pray. If this sounds familiar, join us for Mass on Wednesdays at 6 PM, followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30-7:30 PM. This can be a great way to re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers
Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday from 8:15 PM-9:00 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door). It's a great way to take your spiritual life a step further as we enrich our knowledge of the faith, encourage each other in life's challenges, and grow in fortitude together. We chant the Liturgy of the Hours and share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation. All men of the parish are invited. Questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is one of St. Alphonsus' most active parish groups! YAM is led by a volunteer board and is guided by Pastoral Associate, Brooks Robinson. Stated simply, the ministry's mission is to help one another participate in Christ's mission, that we, as young adult Catholics, may be effective disciples, evangelists, and agents of charity in all that we do. YAM provides many social, intellectual, service, and spiritual opportunities for growth. Members range in age from 21-39 years old.

Our YAM group is made up of 4 main pillars, Spiritual, Intellectual, Service, and Social.

Visit the St. Alphonsus YAM Facebook page, *www.facebook.com/AlphonsusYoungAdult* or contact the YAM board at *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC



Praise and Adoration— Friday, January 19 at 7:30 PM

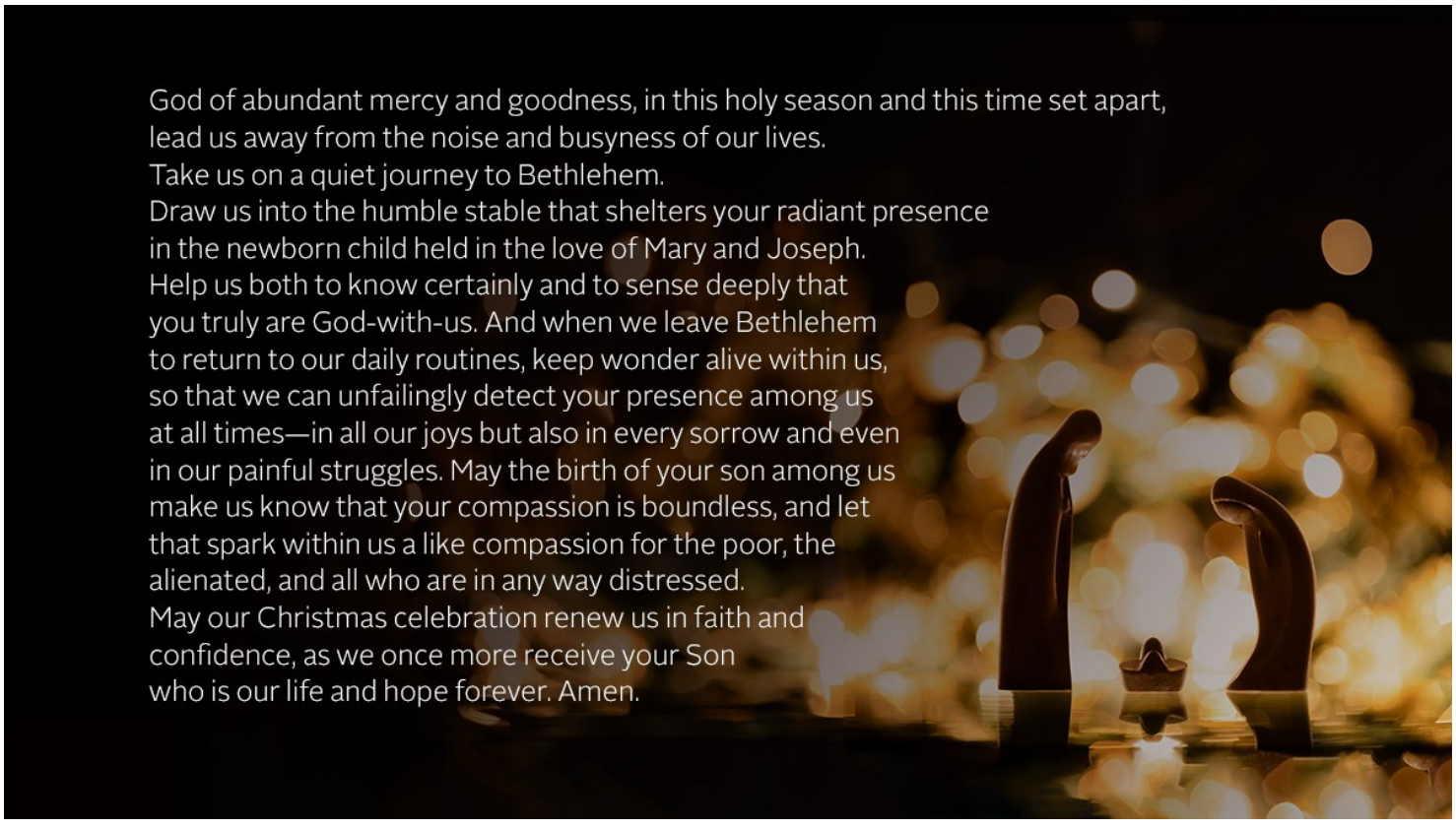
On Friday, January 19th, spend time with our Lord in praise and adoration in the church. We'll spend the first 15 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. Confession will also be available! The hour will conclude with benediction, and we will gather for fellowship at Olive Black after!

Philosophy Forum— Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM

Our weekly philosophy group has a new website, stalphonsusphilosophy.com Join us to engage in meaningful discussions and deepen your understanding of life's big questions. Next meeting on Jan. 9th. All are welcome!

Samuel Group

Samuel discernment group is specifically geared toward young adults (ages 19–35). Here you will discuss all kinds of discernment – if you are called to consecrated life, married life or single life, to a certain career or city, and more. The goal of this group is to help you, and in some cases your significant other, know yourself, Jesus and your role within the Church. **2023 registration has been closed, but there is now a 2024-2025 waitlist on vocations.archchicago.org/events/samuel-group**



New Year's Mass Schedule



New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Masses to celebrate the **Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Sunday, December 31

9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 5:00 PM

Monday, January 1, 2024

10:00 AM

If you are traveling to be with family or friends over Christmas, join us on January 7, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Midnight Mass program will be repeated at the 9 and 11 AM Masses.

Baptisms at St. Alphonsus



Baptism is a fundamental sacrament for Christians. It is a sacrament of initiation that unites us to Christ's mystical body, incorporates us into the Church, and marks the beginning of the Christian journey. Without baptism we cannot participate in the full sacramental life of the Church. In the sacraments we concretely and most visibly encounter God's grace—life reunited with life.

If you are interested in having your child baptized at St. Alphonsus, please contact Kathryn Kibler at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church

For adult baptisms contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Weddings at St. Alphonsus



The love between two people is a gift from God. The commitment you make to be together for the rest of your lives is sealed before the community and God during the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. If you are recently engaged and planning to get married (either at St. Alphonsus Church or out of town) please review the Marriage page on our website and reach out to Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church

For more information about this program listed below, please go to usml.edu/sple/parish-ministry-programs/lay-leadership-st-alphonsus/

Certificate of Lay Leadership

Are you passionate about serving your parish community and making a positive impact? A Certificate of Lay Leadership is your gateway to enhancing your skills, deepening your faith, and becoming a confident leader within the Catholic Church.

Enroll in the Certificate of Lay Leadership program today and unlock the doors to a transformative experience. The program is open to all individuals who are passionate about their faith and eager to contribute to the Church's mission. This two-year program involves monthly formation days on the USML campus in Mundelein and academic courses that will be offered on Monday nights at St. Alphonsus starting January 8th!!

For more information, or to start your application, scan the QR code below or contact Leah Lewandowski at LLewandowski@usml.edu or Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church.

SCHOOL OF
PARISH LEADERSHIP
& EVANGELIZATION
University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Faith In Action



Celebración en Honor A La Virgen de Guadalupe

Celebration in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe









El 12 de diciembre celebramos la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Ella es la Patrona de las Américas. Por la mañana tuvimos la Misa con los estudiantes de la escuela y por la tarde Misa comunitaria en español seguida de una fiesta en Festival Hall.

Gracias a todos los que nos acompañaron en la Misa y la fiesta, y especialmente gracias a todos los que se ofrecieron como voluntarios para decorar la iglesia y el Salón. La celebración estuvo animada, con buenas conversaciones y fraternidad, y hubo mucha comida deliciosa. ¡Gracias a todos los que hicieron posible este evento! Gracias a nuestro coro por guiarnos a cantar en la Misa; fue hermoso.

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On December 12th, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She is the Patroness of the Americas. In the morning we had the school Mass and in the evening community Mass in Spanish followed by a fiesta in Festival Hall.

Thank you to all who joined us for Mass and the fiesta, and especially thanks to everyone who volunteered to decorate the church and Festival Hall. The celebration was lively with good conversations and fraternity, and there was lots of delicious food—thank you to everyone who made this event possible!
Thank you to our choir for leading us in singing at Mass—it was beautiful.

Rev. Jesus Raya Custodio

Our Narthex is Designed for Children and Parents

Did you know that we designed the narthex for the convenience of young families? We know that it can be difficult to take a young child to Mass. We applaud the effort you make! If you feel the need to take your child out of the church, please feel welcome to bring him or her to the narthex. The glass wall and speakers enable you to still see and hear the Mass while you soothe your child.
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At the Athenaeum

For over 100 years, the Athenaeum Theatre has stood as a cornerstone in the Lakeview neighborhood. It is Chicago's oldest continuously operating Off-Loop theatre. Management continues to bring in wide and varied lineups of talent in the performing arts ranging from stage actors, dancers, musicians, comedians, and podcast/ YouTube sensations. At The Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, we believe that beauty has the capacity to build up culture, transform society, and change lives. We hope to help you contemplate, encounter, and delight in beauty. **Check out all upcoming shows at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, visit athenaeumcenter.org/events/**

Lighting Candles In Church

Question:
Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:
Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.



The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

Catholic Charities

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago

D'Vine Affair

Join Catholic Charities for the 2024 D'Vine Affair on Sunday, February 4, from 2-6 PM at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Blvd.. This premier wine tasting events raises critical funds for Catholic Charities programming in Cook and Lake counties.
Get your tickets at www.catholiccharities.net/events/dvine-affair-2024/

Catholic Charities Services

Counseling Support Line: If you are feeling anxious or depressed and you'd like to talk with a counselor, please call the Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line at (312) 655-7725 anytime M-F from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Spanish-speaking counselors are available. If you leave a message after hours, a counselor will call you back.

Legal Assistance Available: Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Department has attorneys and volunteer attorneys available to provide advice in numerous areas of law. If you are unsure about your legal rights or lost in the legal system, they can help. Services include in-depth advice and possible direct representation on many issues, including landlord/tenant disputes, family law, consumer and debtor rights, foreclosure, employment issues, orders of protection, power of attorney, and more. CCLA provides free to low-cost legal services to eligible low-income individuals. For help and more info, contact the legal advice line at (312) 948-6821.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The Knights organize and participate in numerous charitable activities each year that are designed to benefit their parish communities, to help their brother Knights grow deeper in their faith as Catholic men, and to serve the needy and less fortunate in the world.

The St. Alphonsus Council has a strong group of motivated Knights from all ages and walks of life, w/ our numbers over 100 strong and growing. Our council's main goals are: to rally the Catholic men in our community to a common and noble cause, to assist and defend our church, to serve our community, to encourage growth in faith and prayer in ourselves and in our friends and families, to become better men and fathers, and finally to meet like-minded men that share our same values and belief that you can be a man of the world while still having Christ at the center of your life.

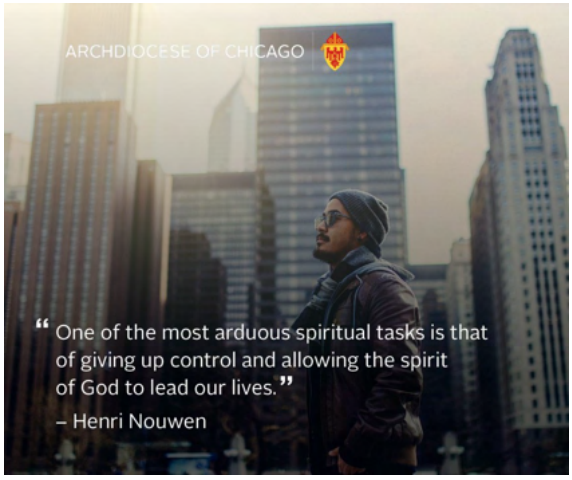
We are always looking for new members, and would welcome the practicing Catholic men of the parish and surrounding community to join our ranks. There is usually a social following our meetings, which is open to all prospective members. To find out more information about the Knights of Columbus at St. Alphonsus, or to apply for membership, feel free to contact parishioner, Ray San Agustin at raysanagustin15158@gmail.com or visit www.stalphonsusknights.com

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 8 at 7:30 PM!

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

New Tires

When does your car need new tires? The first thing to look at is the tread wear. When you place a penny into the tread with Lincoln's head into the tire, if the top of Lincoln's head is not visible, you need new tires. Also, if the tire is more than four years old, it should be replaced. You can check the age of a tire by looking at the DOT code on the tire. The last four numbers on the DOT code will give you the week of the year and the year. A tire manufactured in the last week of this year will have the DOT code ending in 5223. The 52nd week of 2023. When you buy new tires look at the code. You do not want tires that sat in the warehouse for a half of a year because that tire will only be safe for 3 ½ years.



Building Community

Jesus didn't say, "Alright, now everybody listen to my words but then do your own thing and don't get in each other's way". He assembled a community, gave it a mission and leaders to guide it. A strong community has many aspects, including teaching imperfect people to resolve conflicts. A strong community:

- Prays for and With You
- Celebrates Spiritual Milestones with You
- Guides Your Conscience on Important Personal and Social Issues
- Accompanies You on Your Faith Journey
- Benefits from your Gifts and Contributions
- Gives you Opportunities to Step into Leadership Roles
- Teaches You

Wherever you are on your faith journey, God Bless You!

Living the Gospel of Life

Prayers for Life Throughout the Year



Prayer For Babies in Their Mother's Womb
O God of all creation,
Nurture and protect tiny children and keep them safe in the sanctuary of their mother's womb.
As You so wondrously form their hearts and minds and lungs and souls, so strengthen our will to lovingly nurture and protect them.
Give us the eyes to see them as our brothers and sisters, the minds to welcome them as our own, and the faith to defend them as Your children.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and the mother of all the little ones, through Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer For Babies About to Be Born
Heavenly Father,
From the moment these children were conceived, You knew their names.
In the silent first hours of their lives, as cells divided and their living flesh quickened, Your love breathed deep within and they began to grow in Your image and likeness.
May our prayers be accompanied by choirs of angels as we await their births.
We ask this through Your child who was formed in the Virgin's womb and who lived and died for us,
Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing of Parents Before the Birth of Their Child
Gracious Father,
Your Word, spoken in love, created the human family and, in the fullness of time, Your Son, conceived in love, restored it to Your friendship.
Hear the prayers of Parents awaiting the birth of a child, calm their fears when they are anxious.
Watch over and support these parents and bring their child into this world safely and in good health, so that as members of Your family they may praise You and glorify You through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing of a Mother Before Childbirth
God has brought gladness and light to the world through the Virgin Mary's delivery of her child. May Christ fill your heart with His holy joy and keep you and your baby safe from harm.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

12 Hours For Life!

Catholics across the Archdiocese are invited to join one of the holy hours for life at the St. John Paul II Newman Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago (700 S. Morgan St., Chicago) starting at 7 PM Jan. 18 and running through 7 AM Jan. 19.
More details coming.

Safe Families for Children

Volunteer with Safe Families for Children!



When a single parent experiences a crisis (hospitalization, loss of housing, unemployment, etc.) and has no support system to lean on for childcare, they can call Safe Families for Children.

Safe Families works by connecting families in crisis with compassionate, background-checked families to care for their children until the parent(s) are back on their feet.

Apply to be a "Host Family" or "Family Friend" today! https://sfcms.net/apply/

Learn more at safe-families.org or contact us at safefamiliesstals@gmail.com

Contact

Sacramental Information

Contact our parish office at (773) 525-0709 for information regarding celebrating sacraments including Baptisms (infant and adult), Reconciliation (confession), Eucharist (Communion), Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick. For information regarding Funerals, please first contact the funeral director of your choice to begin making arrangements.

How to Offer a Mass Intention

Did you ever notice that every Mass said here at St. Alphonsus is offered for a special intention? The entire congregation prays for that intention during the petitions (Prayers of the Faithful) when we say, "For those who have died, and for the intention of this Mass: (named intention)"

You can make a Mass Intention request here. Masses are often offered for family, friends and relatives that have died. Praying for the dead is a Spiritual Work of Mercy. Offering a Mass for someone that has died is an especially comforting gesture to the family. Mass can also be offered to commemorate joyful occasions and to give thanks to God for blessings received.

The customary offering for a Mass is $15. However, any amount that you would like to offer is acceptable. You can request Masses by visiting the Parish Office during office hours or calling the Parish Office at (773) 525-0709.

You can ***register in the parish*** by coming to the rectory office or going online at *www.stalphonsuschicago.org*. The advantage to registering is that we know who you are and can better plan our programs by knowing whom we serve.

Want *to find out what is happening in the young adult community?* Join the St. Al's Young Adult Listserv. We send out monthly emails to let people know about our upcoming events. To register for the listserv, contact *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

The ***Knights of Columbus*** are the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. For more information, visit *www.stalphonsusknights.com*

St. Alphonsus Social Media

Choose to participate in meaningful engagement! Having an attitude of engagement challenges us to love our digital neighbor as ourselves. You can find St. Alphonsus' Facebook and Twitter by going to the parish website and clicking the icons at the footer of the page.

Directory

Parish Office

1429 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-525-0709 |
www.stalphonsuschicago.org
parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM— 5:00 PM Mon- Fri

School Office

1439 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-892-1397 |
www.alphonsusacademy.org

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. Jesús (Chuy) Raya, Associate Pastor
Brooks Robinson, Pastoral Associate
Emily Ember, Coordinator of RE/Evangelization
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kathryn Kibler, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator/Parish Secretary

School Staff

Gerit McAllister, Principal
Angela Kladis, Assistant Principal
Madeleine Durkin, Director of Admissions
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant